

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 00075 051324Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HA-05 /054 W

-----074649 051338Z /53

R 051302Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 102

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: DEATHS OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: STATE 310256

1. EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN WITH SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR) AND "RAND DAILY MAIL" (RDM) ON DISCREPANCY IN REPORTING NUMBERS OF DEATHS IN DETENTION. AFTER GOING OVER DIFFERENT REPORTS NAME BY NAME, IT IS CONSENSUS THAT SAIRR REPORT IS ACCURATE. RDM ADMITS THAT ITS REPORTING IS BASED ON SAIRR PUBLICATIONS. WHEN SAIRR POINTED OUT THAT THREE PERSONS MENTIONED ON A LIST IT GAVE THE RDM IN SEPTEMBER WERE, AFTER FURTHER INVESTIGATION, NOT SECURITY BUT RATHER CRIMINAL DETAINEES, RDM RELENTED. THESE THREE PERSONS ARE AN "UNKNOWN BLACK MAN" WHO DIED OCT. 16, 1976; EDWARD MZOLO, DIED OCT. 9, 1976; AND TWASIFONE JOYI, DIED FEB. 15, 1977.

2. SAIRR POINTED OUT TO EMBASSY THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ALWAYS TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SECURITY DETAINEES AND AWAITING-TRIAL PRISONERS. CERTAIN RECENT DEATHS FELL INTO LATTER CATEGORY BUT WERE DEFINITELY "POLITICAL SUSPECTS" ACCORDING TO SAIRR. THESE INCLUDE THE THREE ABOVE AS WELL AS JACOB MASHABANE, DIED OCT. 5, 1976; FENUAL MOGATUSI, DIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 00075 051324Z

SEPT. 28, 1976; AND MZUKISI NOBHADULA, DIED DEC. 20, 1977 (PRETORIA 7057). FURTHER TO THIS, SAIRR WAS "SHOCKED" AT NUMBER OF AWAITING-TRIAL PRISONERS WHO SEEM TO HAVE NO POLITICAL CONNECTIONS WHO DIE IN DETENTION. IT SHOWED EMBASSY RECORDS THAT 117 SUCH DETAINEES DIED IN 1976 ALONE AND HAD CLIPPINGS ON AT LEAST 26, SOME WHITE, WHO HAVE DIED IN 1977.

(COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS AND CLIPPINGS, PLUS
SAIRR'S PUBLICATION "DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA"
WILL BE POUCHED TO AF/S.)

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE, THE DEFINITIVE FIGURE
ON SECURITY ACT DETAINEE DEATHS SINCE 1963 IS 42.
THIS INCLUDES STEVE BIKO AND THE MOST RECENT DEATH,
BONAVENTURA SIPHO MALAZA (PRETORIA 6253 AND 6422)
WHICH WAS NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS SAIRR ACCOUNT.

4. BAKER INQUIRY ON PETER JONES HAS BEEN RESPONDED TO
IN CAPE TOWN 0005. BOWDLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR00075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780008-0581
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780196/aaaaddgu.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43cf8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 310256
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3824326
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATHS OF POLITICAL DETAINEES
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SHUM, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43cf8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014